

Message Text

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TO USMISSION NATO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

USDEL MBFR VIENNA PRIORITY

CHAAG BELLUX PRIORITY

CINCLANT PRIORITY

CINCEUR PRIORITY

USLOSACLANT PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE PRIORITY

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 268398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, BE

SUBJECT: BELGIAN FORCES FOR NATO

REF: USNATO 6074 DTG 071605Z NOV 75

HOLD FOR OPENING OF BUSINESS

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1. CONCUR IN MISSION'S APPROACH TO MULTILATERAL EXAMINATION.
2. WE NOTE WITH INTEREST THE BELGIAN PLANS TO CREATE AN ANTI-ARMOR BATTALION FOR EACH BRIGADE (PAGE 20 OF SECTION D/1, PARA 2B). MISSION MIGHT ASK FOR DETAILS AT THE MULTILATERAL AND, IF APPROPRIATE, SUGGEST A BRIEFING FOR THE DRC/EWG ON THE NEW ANTI-ARMOR ORGANIZATION.
3. BELGIAN SPENDING FOR NATIONAL MILITARY CONSTRUCTION (NATO COST CATEGORY 35) GREW FROM 2 PERCENT OF THE DEFENSE BUDGET IN 1969 TO 6 AND 7 PERCENT IN 1973 AND 1974 RESPECTIVELY, BUT IS PROJECTED TO DROP BACK TO AROUND 4 PERCENT BY 1976. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED TO KNOW WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE GROWTH IN THIS CATEGORY DURING THE EARLY SEVENTIES AND IN PARTICULAR THE UNUSUALLY HIGH EXPENDITURES NOTED IN 1973 AND 1974.
4. WHAT ACCOUNTS FOR THE DECLINE IN ARMY MANPOWER BETWEEN 1974 AND 1975 NOTED IN PARA 4 OF US NATO 6074?

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